



THE D.C. AREA PHI BETA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

Founded on December 6, 1913

www.dcpbk.org

NEWSLETTER

suggestions@dcpbk.org

November 2022

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Upcoming and Recent Events

Holiday Party! It's always fun to keep the fun and festivities going for as long as we can, so we're looking forward to gathering for our annual Holiday Party in January. You can find plans and details on the website, and in the December issue of the newsletter.

Recent Event: A Special Lecture on Ancestry

On October 21, several DCPBK members joined George Mason's Omicron Chapter for an enlightening lecture by **Dr. Maya Jasanoff**, on the critical topic, **Ancestors: Where Do We Come From and Why Do We Care?** Charming, brilliant, and authoritative, Dr. Jasanoff outlined the widespread current interest in genealogy and family history, such as the burgeoning popularity of such sources as Ancestry.com. She attributes this interest to the universal need to feel connected, which has spiritual as well as social, legal, political, and racial implications. She

also noted that all history is by definition biased, and interpreted differently by each of us, but that these searches are generally positive, and helpful to the Searchers, even though you might discover something you'd rather not know about your family!

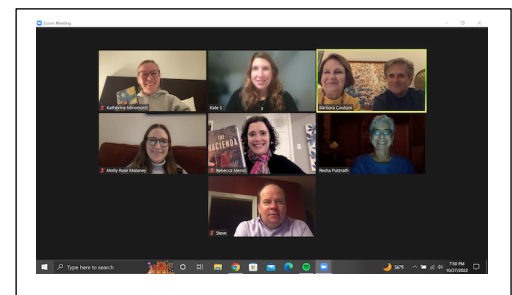
Recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Jasanoff has authored several books as a historian of British imperial and global history. She currently teaches a popular undergraduate course at Harvard, and is now completing a short book on the craft of historical narrative, teasing out the "story" in history.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session, and a reception for those who attended in person.

Book Club News and Reviews

October Meeting Recap

On Thursday October 27, nine members of the book club met to discuss the spooky selection ***The Hacienda*** by Isabel Cañas. Last year for October we read another horror selection set in Mexico, called ***Mexican Gothic***, and we enjoyed comparing the themes and characters across both novels. Both feature settings



influenced by various substances—here mezcal, pulque, and copal incense combine to alter the senses of our main characters and their impressions of the titular house's supernatural menace. Set in post-Revolutionary Mexico, themes of city vs country life, the influence of the church in Mexican culture, and class roles all feature heavily in the narrative and shape its outcomes. We particularly enjoyed discussing the novel's evolving relationships, the role of night vs day in the horror genre, and the notion that homes "absorb the feelings of the people who live in them."

Recent and Upcoming Meetings

November 14, 6:30 PM on Zoom

Bonus Mid-November DC PBK Book Club Meeting: *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes

Our bonus Mid-November Book Club meeting discussed *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes (Classic, 132 pages).

November 29, 6:30PM on Zoom

Please join us for our regular November meeting to discuss *Winter in Sokcho* by Elisa Shua Dusapin (International, Franco-Korean author, 154 pages). All DCPBK members and guests are invited to attend.

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/2022/11/29/november-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-winter-in-sokcho-160-by-elisa-shua-dusapin>

Please see below for the final selection in the Fall Series. Within the next month, members who have participated within the last 6 months will recommend and vote in our Spring 2023 series, which will take us from January-June 2023. Stay tuned for the final list!

- **December: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*** by Thornton Wilder, Classic, 160 pages

(Meeting date is anticipated for the first week of January 2023, which is how we typically handle our December meeting around the holidays.)

Members who RSVP Yes on the website will receive the meeting link and login information in their registration confirmation email. We all start together, and break into smaller group chats, as needed, after introductions. Feel free to grab food and drink for the meeting, as we normally would!

As always, event dates are posted 1-2 months out. If there is a selection here you are particularly invested in, please reach out to bookclub@dcpbk.org and I am happy to accommodate schedule preferences as much as I am able.

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/11/29/november-2022-dc-pbk-book-club-meeting-winter-in-sokcho-160-by-elisa-shua-dusapin>

Happy reading,

Kate Smith,

DCPBK Book Club Coordinator

November Spanish Language Group

The Spanish Language Group met on **November 16 at 6:30 PM** at La Cosecha (1280 4th St NE, Washington, DC 20002). These meetings are open to all skill levels, but note that they will be conducted in Spanish, so a basic conversational level is recommended to be able to participate in the discussion.

This group aims to be a reflection of its members, so we will remain flexible and attentive to your interests and capacity.

Please contact Hadley Ashford (hadley.ashford@alumni.unc.edu) if you have any questions about the group or have trouble registering.

Coffee & Conversation Series

We are currently in the process of selecting our next speaker for Coffee & Conversation, and will be in touch soon with those details. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Rosenberg at dberg8@gmail.com.

Young Professionals (YP) Network

Recent Event

On Friday, Nov. 4, a group of YPs met at **Escape the Room DC Midtown** to escape The Agency. Combining their investigative skills, creativity, and teamwork, the YPs searched for clues and solved puzzles, ultimately earning their freedom and escaping the room with two minutes to spare. With many unexpected twists and turns, the team enjoyed this challenge, which was followed by a YP dinner, capping off an exciting and interactive evening.



Upcoming Event

Trivia Night with the YP Network

Tuesday, December 6, at Crimson DC, 6:00-9:00 PM

Trivia Night with the YP Network is back! Join us Tuesday, December 6 at Crimson DC (627 H Street, NW) for another round of trivia. Questions will include a mix of categories from history, science, movies, arts, sports, pop culture, and many more, and there will also be a chance to win prizes. Games begin at 7:00 PM, though we'd like everyone to arrive by 6:15 PM to meet each other, enjoy food and drinks, and ensure that we get a table. We look forward to seeing you there!

Register here:

<https://dcpbk.org/events/#!event/register/2022/12/6/trivia-night-with-the-yp-network>

Please contact Reyna Yang, YP Network Coordinator (reyna_yang@gwu.edu) if you have any questions about the event and registration.

Announcements

Mentorship Network News

Fall Mentorship Mixer

October's Mentorship Mixer was a success—mentors and mentees alike gathered to get to know one another through various conversation starters and topics related to mentorship, professional growth, and career goals!

We look forward to sharing our 2023 Mentorship Programming after the new year. In the meantime, please consider becoming a mentor through the **DCPBK Mentor Directory**, which is a low-time commitment! Mentors and mentees, once connected, can meet together on their own terms—virtually, in-person, once a week, once every two months, whatever they decide! To join the Mentor

Directory, simply log into your account on dcpbk.org, click on “Profile,” and select “Check below if you would like to be a mentor.” Answer a few questions, click “save,” and you’re all set!

To learn more about the Mentorship Network, please visit <https://dcpbk.org/programs/mentorship>.

Elena Helmers-Wegman,

DCPBK Mentorship Network Coordinator: elena.helmerts.wegman@gmail.com

Open Volunteer Positions

Are you looking to get more involved with DCPBK? We are currently seeking applications for the following officer positions.

Open Position: President

The **President** is a member of the executive committee, and is expected to attend and lead the quarterly Board meetings for the DC PBK Association. Running the Board meeting consists of preparing an agenda and then leading the discussion during the meeting. Outside of the Board meetings, the President should answer inquiries that are directed at the Association, is responsible for sourcing volunteer positions, and hosting several key events throughout the year (e.g. Spring Fling, Annual Meeting, Holiday Party). The President cannot serve more than two terms (two years).

Detailed Duties and Responsibilities include:

- Determine the main objectives and direction of the Association each year
- Select the date of and lead the quarterly meetings of the DC Area PBK Board, which typically occur on Saturdays from 10-12pm. The President is responsible for sending out a calendar invite to meeting attendees
- Set agenda topics and distribute draft to board members and lead volunteers for input and revisions. Circulate finalized agenda a few days prior to the meeting, and providing printed copies for attendees
- Hold general knowledge of the various Association programs and processes
- Answer inquiries from members and/or volunteers, or refer questions to appropriate contact
- Source for open volunteer positions, including interviewing (along with another officer and/or the person the holds the role currently) and updating the website with the position details. The President should work with two other board members (the nominating committee) to nominate members for the annual election
- Align with the National PBK Society on how to encourage new inductees to join their local association
- The President may occasionally need to make key decisions and/or set new policies.

Open Position: Membership and Outreach Coordinator

The **Membership and Outreach Coordinator** designs programs based on the interests of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association’s membership base as a whole, and also various segments of members. Using the survey that the Association conducted a few years ago, the Membership and Outreach coordinator thinks critically about the interests of the members of the Association, and designs initiatives to ensure that the Association’s programs are member-centric.

The Membership and Outreach Coordinator facilitates **Coffee & Conversation**, the Association’s speaker series, which occurs quarterly. Additionally, the Membership and Outreach coordinator is responsible for managing the Association’s website hosted on WordPress.

Detailed Duties and Responsibilities include:

- Managing the Coffee & Conversation speaker series, including identifying potential speakers,

- brainstorming interview questions for the speaker, and marketing the event to members
- Connecting with members on an individual basis to learn what kinds of programs are of interest to them
 - Recruiting members to fill leadership positions with the Association, and working with members to figure out how to involve them meaningfully in the Association
 - Managing the website, including assisting volunteers with making edits to the website if necessary, liasing with the Association's website consultants, and ensuring the website is functioning properly and updated when prompted by WordPress.

DCPBK Winter Board Meeting

Our quarterly board meetings are open to any DCPBK member in good standing. The Winter board meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 21** via Zoom.

DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association Board

2022-2023 Officers

PRESIDENT: Rebecca DeSantis-Randall (Washington College, 2016)
VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAPTER RELATIONS: Catherine Stallsmith (Elon University, 2022)
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER EXPERIENCE: Lindsay Osborne (University of Hawaii, 2021)
SECRETARY: Daisy Yu (University of Maryland, College Park, 2022)
TREASURER: Reyna Yang (George Washington U., 2022)

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Nina Kuo (Duke University, 2012)—Past President
Carol Bontempo (University of Connecticut, 1962)—Newsletter Editor
Paul Lubliner (University of Oregon, 2006)—Past President
Liz Marshall (Lawrence University, 2009)—Past President
Kate H. Smith (Boston University, 2010)—Book Club Coordinator
Dan Rosenberg (George Washington University, 2014)—Membership and Outreach Coordinator

Advisory Council

Deirdre LaPin (Agnes Scott College, 1967)—Past Vice-President
Christel G. McDonald (George Washington University, 1986)—Past President

Additional Volunteers

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COORDINATOR: Reyna Yang (George Washington U., 2022)
HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS COORDINATOR: Sameer Jaywant (New York University, 2014)
MENTORSHIP NETWORK COORDINATOR: Elena Helmers-Wegman (Wofford College, 2019)



Love of Learning is the Guide of Life